

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IAEA VIENNA 9943

HAO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, SENV, TGEN, UN

SUBJECT: UNGA FIFTH COMMITTEE - TRANSFER OF UNSCEAR

REF: (A) IAEA VIENNA 4097, JUNE 14, 1972

(B) STATE 215909

(C) USUN 5147

1. SUMMARY: IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL EKLUND FEELS TRANSFER OF UNSCEAR SECRETARIAT AWAY FROM NEW YORK WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE. IN EVENT TRANSFER OCCURS, HE FEELS VIENNA WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO GENEVA SO LONG AS THERE NO RPT NO CHANGE IN UNSCEAR TERMS OF REFERENCE. HE OPPOSED TO MERGER OF UNSCEAR WITH IAEA. MISSION CONCURS WITH GENERAL LINE OF ACTION PROPOSED BY USUN REF :. END SUMMARY.

2. PROPOSED TRANSFER OF UNSCEAR FROM NEW YORK TO GENEVA, AND RECENT ACABQ REPORT THAT TRANSFER IS JUSTIFIED, DISCUSSED BY AMBASSADORS TAPE AND PORTER WITH IAEA DG EKLUND NOVEMBER 30. EKLUND WAS ACUTELY AWARE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATTER, AND HIS INITIAL REACTION IS THAT ANY TRANSFER

OF UNSCEAR AWAY FROM NEW YORK WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE, FOR ESSENTIALLY SAME REASONS AS THOSE OUTLINED REF B AS FORMING BASIS OF US OPPOSITION TO TRANSFER. FYI: AGENCY SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL, BASED ON REPORT FROM IAEA LIAISON OFFICE IN NY, HAD FEELING THAT DESIRE OF SELLA TO RETURN TO EUROPE, AND COMPLEMENTARY DESIRE TO GET MORE "SEX APPEAL" INTO HIS WORK, MAY HAVE HAD MUCH TO DO WITH DATA ON UNDER-UTILIZATION WHICH LED AMS TO SUGGEST TRANSFER. END FYI.

3. IN EVENT TRANSFER IS DECIDED UPON (AS NOW SEEMS LIKELY FROM REF C), EKLUND FELT THAT VIENNA WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL PLACE THAN GENEVA FOR SECRETARIAT TO LOCATE, SINCE MUCH OF ITS WORK IS BASED ON DATA SUPPLIED BY IAEA AND CROSS-FERTILIZATION FROM BEING IN SAME TOWN WOULD BENEFIT BOTH BODIES. EKLUND PREDICATED THIS, HOWEVER, ON NO RPT NO CHANGE IN UNSCEAR'S PRESENT TERMS OF REFERENCE, I.E., DEALING ONLY WITH RADIOACTIVE POLLUTANTS. IN EVENT TRANSFER OUT OF NY WOULD BE LEAD-IN TO BROADENING ITS MANDATE TO DEAL WITH OTHER POLLUTANTS, EKLUND WANTS NO PART OF THE MATTER.

4. REF A DISCUSSED FACT THAT AGENCY'S PROMOTIONAL ROLE IN NUCLEAR FIELD WOULD MAKE IT LESS CREDIBLE THAN NON-OPERATING, SCIENTIFIC BODY SUCH AS UNSCEAR IN ASSESSING RISKS FROM RADIOACTIVE POLLUTANTS; THIS EVALUATION STILL HOLDS TRUE. FOR THIS REASON, EKLUND IS OPPOSED TO ANY ULTIMATE MERGER OF UNSCEAR INTO IAEA, AS SUGGESTED PARA 2 REF C.

5. COMMENT: DG EKLUND AND SOME IN IAEA SECRETARIAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INCLINED TO VIEW ANY SUGGESTION OF UNSCEAR ROLE EXPANSIONISM WITH CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION (FOR EXAMPLE, SEE REF A). IT APPEARS TO MISSION THAT THEY DO NOT RPT NOT FEEL THAT PROPOSED TRANSFER OF UNSCEAR IS PURELY MATTER OF RELOCATION TO EVEN OUT WORKLOAD AND IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT, BUT RATHER SEE IT AS A PRELUDE TO A MOVE TO EXPAND FUNCTIONS, POSSIBLY AT EXPENSE OF IAEA. NEVERTHELESS, WHICHEVER SET OF REASONS WAS PARAMOUNT IN PRODUCING THIS PROPOSAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MISSION FEELS THAT EKLUND'S VIEWS ON DEMERITS OF TRANSFER AWAY FROM NEW YORK, OR IF THIS INEVITABLE, MERITS OF TRANSFER TO VIENNA WITH NO CHANGE IN TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE GOOD ANALYSIS OF SITUATION. WE SHARE THEM, AND CONCUR WITH USUN'S PROPOSED LINE OF LOBBYING, SUBJECT TO CONDITION THAT TRANSFER TO VIENNA WOULD NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE REFERENCE TO ULTIMATE MERGER INTO IAEA.TAPE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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